

I heard an interview on the radio yesterday about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to air an anti-Kerry documentary called "Stolen Honor," and to direct all its stations to preempt normal primetime programming to show the film. This seems to me to be a very partisan political position and totally contrary to serving the public interest. Democracy depends upon an informed public. Presenting debates, alternative viewpoints, and a variety of perspectives all serve to help inform the public, and perhaps even provide political perspectives. But to present only a one-sided, strongly partisan show, and to require local stations to preempt their normal prime time shows, I think is highly inappropriate and harmful to the democratic process.

My understanding is that the FCC has a duty to make sure the public airways are being used in a manner to serve the general public good. One-sided documentaries, presented as journalism without a balancing perspective, do not serve the public good.